

I consider there is much dissatisfaction existing that there is no school for Europeans supported out of this estate. The teacher at the Provincial Government school has only £110 a year, and the clergyman, Mr. Poole, gets £150, while Mr. Ronaldson has £285. I think there are several young men here, and also parents of children, who would be glad to pay weekly for education given by such a clergyman as Mr. Ronaldson. I think it is a great shame that that College is closed against white people. According to the Act the land was given for each.

William Andrews, being duly sworn, states: I have been nearly twenty years in this district, as assistant Wesleyan preacher. I always understood the College was to be for both races, but it has not been so. As an individual, I am quite willing to bear a part towards the expense, if there is not enough coming in from the land. I think the feeling is general. We should wish for a school that should give a superior education. I am aware there is no fit building for the purpose. I know there has been an ill-feeling amongst us ever since that building was put up, because of the expense, which I have heard was £700, and the bad way in which it was built. I told Mr. Tudor at the time that the two chimneys would all have to come down again. He said he hoped not. The architect did not employ proper people.

I think the Maoris are dissatisfied with the school owing to there not having been proper attention paid to them. Sometimes there has been somebody to look after the school and sometimes not.

I know that there has been always a dissatisfaction among them as to the land the Bishop received. They say the land is theirs. It was taken from them without their consent, and they do not know what is done with the money.

James Macdonald, being duly sworn, states: I have been lately a storekeeper. I have been in this district twenty years. I always understood that the College was to be open for the Europeans as well as for the Maoris. I know that there are several families about here who would be very glad to avail themselves of a good school, but never understood that they could do so. I think it possible that if a certain scale of payment had been adopted, European children might be educated at the school.

Charles Alley recalled: The chimneys of the building were erected by private contract, so far as I know; I was in Nelson at the time. I was instructed to go to Dr. Greenwood to give in a tender for the chimneys of the school at Motueka. I went to Dr. Greenwood. He told me to go to Mr. Russell. Mr. Russell acted, I believe, in the capacity of a builder. I saw him at Richmond. I told him that I would build the chimneys for £12. He said he could not give it, as he had only £14 for it. He offered £10. I said I could not do it for that. I was over here two months after. Mr. Tudor applied to me to inspect those chimneys. I went and looked at them, and I told Mr. Tudor they would never act. I could see, and almost put my hand through, one of them. He told me there was a Bishop coming out, and there was no money at hand. The flues were too small, and they were not pargetted. The actual contract accepted was for £14, which was sufficient to have made a good job of it. I would have done it for £12. The plaster was only two-coat work, instead of three. I consider it a very inferior job. I told Mr. Tudor so. The laths are in several places perpendicular, which will never hold the mortar properly. The zinc at the angle of the junction of the dormer with the roof was put over the plaster instead of under, so that the water always soaked in behind it.

Takerei Paerota declared he would not send his children. I took my son Herewini from the school a long time ago, because they whipped him.

Nopera said: Me speak English—me never go to school—here my master (touching his own head)—me put it in here all the same potatoes into the ground. My way speaking English—half English, half Maori—like a pot of “bingo” (half ale, half porter). The man at the school*—the master—he make a beat of Paerota's boy. That no good. That no the Maori way. That old fellow (Paerota) take him away. That the way the Maori no go to the school. They make one hour read; one hour school a week; all the rest time grow potato, grow wheat, grow cabbage. What the good of that? Maori no like that.

Ramari Tekauri: My name is now Herewini (Selwyn). My land was called Matakinkino, (now sections 1 to 9, also 10 and 11 Riwaka, the side of Motueka). It was mine before I was ill. It was land of my forefathers. I lived there till I went to Nelson. I lived on the Motueka River sections 72, 73, 74. Riwaka was my father's land too.

I was requested to give up my land for a school, and I also had land at the Wakarewa which I also gave up; but I kept the Motueka River land. I stuck to that land. I did not stay there because I was ill. No one told me to go off it. I have no land now. The Government has taken that at Motueka. I gave up the rest. The only thing I received for that land was my maintenance during my illness. Nobody ever told me this was the payment for my land. I had £2 a month from Taylor, the policeman at Tekapa, by Mr. Brunner's authority. I don't know how much I received. I don't know how to count. I received it for about ten weeks while I lived at Motupipi. This was paid up to the time of my marriage. My father, E Kia, got ten blankets for his share of the land at Motueka. Captain Wakefield gave him them. My father died whilst I was at Nelson. Whilst I was at Nelson they let the cottage that my husband (Charley) had built, and the land to Mr. Jackson and others, who said they had taken it on a lease from Brunner.

Edmund Parkinson: I am a carpenter. I have lived here fourteen or fifteen years. I and my partner, Edward Bibbey, put up the school-buildings. It was soon after our arrival. We tendered for the carpenters' work, but not the timber. We made it according to Mr. Clarke's plan, who was architect. Dr. Greenwood and Mr. Tudor had to do with it. The timber was splendid, and there was plenty of it. At that time wages were tip-top, and timber was very dear. We had just left Melbourne and put up a barn for Dr. Greenwood, also a job for Mr. Allen, and satisfied them. We did a portion of the lath-work; some of the outside with gutters, some inside, to the best of my recollection. I do not recollect the amount of the contract. My mate has been gone away some time. I cannot recollect whether tenders were advertised for. We got paid about days'

*Mr. Harris was alluded to.